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PENNSYLVANIA

» PARK NEWS «

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NO. 5

JUNE, 1935



IN POWELL STACKHOUSE PARK, JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Courtesy M. M. Chudy

PENNSYLVANIA PARKS ASSOCIATION

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Pennsylvania Park News

Herman Cope, Editor
35 N. 6th St., Phila., Pa.

Published by Pennsylvania Parks Association

AN INVITATION

In March, 1935, our Association received a most cordial invitation from the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce seconded by the Community Club and by the local garden clubs to hold our annual meeting in their city. They assured us that they would do everything possible to make the meeting a huge success.

In view of the fact that the Federal Government has a notable recreational project at Laurel Ridge which will serve the citizens of Johnstown and vicinity as the French Creek area will serve Philadelphia, we felt that we might be able to render valuable assistance by lending this community the publicity which is always accorded our gatherings.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

POSTPONEMENT OF JOHNSTOWN MEETING!

To the members of the

Pennsylvania Parks Association.

As we go to press we are greatly disappointed to learn that both Governor Earle and Secretary Bashore, whom we had hoped to have as guests, are prevented from taking part in the meeting scheduled for June.

We have also just received word that two of the others, upon whom the success of the meeting depended to a large extent, have been called away, thus making it almost impossible to hold the successful meeting to which we had looked forward.

Under these circumstances we have been requested to postpone the meeting.

As it would hardly seem advisable to hold the session during July or August, when so many people are away, it has been suggested that early in the Fall will be the most appropriate time. Due notice will be given.

It is with great reluctance that this action is taken and with sincere regret upon the part of the Officers of the Association and the Committees in charge.

Yours very truly,

HERMAN COPE,
Secretary.

JOHNSTOWN RECREATIONAL AREAS

By M. M. Chudy

Roxbury Park

In 1921 the City of Johnstown purchased a tract of land containing approximately 148 acres, 28 of which are within the city limits, and 120 just outside the city. This purchase was made from the F. A. Cresswell heirs.

The portion within the city limits is being used as an active recreational area, where baseball, football, tennis, etc., is played. Just outside the city limits is a beautiful forest area predominating in maple trees.

During 1932-33 relief labor was used to cut down dead wood, clean out underbrush and build picnic facilities, such as outdoor ovens, shelters, tables and benches and latrines. Old springs were cleaned out and now afford fine sparkling water. Since this area was improved, thousands of local residents, as well as hundreds of transients have enjoyed this area.

This tract of land also contains a stretch suitable for a golf course. The city contemplates improving this area for this purpose.

Powell Stackhouse Park

This park contains some 275 acres. It is both an active as well as a passive recreational area. It is situated just outside the city limits, being so located that it is easily accessible to every one in the City of Johnstown. Stackhouse Park has a great variety of trees, but oak predominates. There are several fine springs on the land, and a lively creek runs thru the bottom of the park.

This park is now being made into a useful and beautiful recreational area by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The improvement program calls for the building of truck roads, foot trails, improvement of picnic grounds, the erection of shelters, latrines, fountains, outdoor ovens, picnic tables and benches, vehicle and foot bridges, look-out and fire towers.

Carpenter Park

In 1915, P. L. Carpenter, a member of the City Planning Commission, gave the city of Johnstown a deed for 40 acres of forest land. This area is situated about eight miles from the city limits.

The natural and wild condition, and varying topography afford seclusion and quiet to many lovers of nature in and about Johnstown. This park is profuse with wild flowers, principally laurel. Among

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the trees, oak and maple predominate, but quite a number of black and white birch are to be found. At one time Carpenter Park was profuse with chestnut trees, but they are now extinct.

Highland Park

Highland Park is principally a passive recreational area. It contains 51.11 acres, obtained from the Von Lunen heirs in 1918. This area abounds in much natural beauty, but contains considerable dead wood and underbrush. The locust tree predominates here. There are also some linden, beech, maple and cherry. A portion of the park is now being used as a picnic area.

GOOD WORK OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Ellwood B. Chapman

At the time of organization of the Pennsylvania Parks Association, we announced that one of our principal objects was to secure recreational facilities for the teeming masses within our congested centers of population.

For a long time, with a depleted State treasury, this seemed almost hopeless of fulfillment; now, however, with the generous aid and co-operation of the Federal Government our dreams are soon to come true and our ambitions to be realized.

The Committee on the Purchase of Sub-marginal farm lands, at Washington, was quick to recognize the fact that in many sections these tracts with addition of adjoining wooded areas might make delightful playgrounds, thus serving the double purpose of benefiting the farmer and affording a site for rest and recreation for the dwellers in the cities nearby.

Already three projects are well advanced. For Philadelphia, the French Creek area is being developed; dams will be built, making several attractive lakes; cabins and fireplaces, for the camper, and picnic areas for the one-day sojourner.

One C. C. C. camp is already established, and there is a possibility of a second being established.

For Pittsburgh, the Raccoon Creek area admirably adapted to recreational needs, and easily accessible has been selected.

For Johnstown and nearby centers the Laurel Ridge site will afford when developed, ideal campsites for the residents of these cities.

It is understood that several large tracts which may be suited to the needs of other communities are now being studied by representatives of the Committee.

Pennsylvania has not always kept pace with her sister states in affording to the dwellers in her large cities opportunities for outdoor life, but the accomplishments of the Federal Government will give the work in our Commonwealth a much-needed impetus, and will afford opportunities for the enjoyment of healthful, upbuilding life in the "Great Outdoors" which might otherwise have been impossible.

TOUR OF THE PARKS

Cook State Forest Park

Clarion County, Pa.

In 1912 Thomas Liggett, our vice-president from Pittsburgh, first saw this tract and aided by several public-spirited citizens, for the most part living in the western part of the state, made efforts to have the commonwealth purchase this property and convert it into a state park.

During the World War period little progress was made, but after great efforts they secured an appropriation of \$450,000 from the legislature. The Cook Forest Association raised \$200,000 and by December, 1928, the objective had been reached. There were approximately 3,000 contributors to the Association funds. Over 1,000 of these represented contributors of \$1 each. In addition, many small schools, boy scouts, girl scouts, and others contributed 10c per person. Because of the general publicity secured during the fund raising campaign, the park was very well advertised.

Unfortunately, the earnings of the forests, waters and parks with the exception of a few such as Erie, Washington Crossing, and Valley Forge go into what is known as the school fund, so that for some time past it has been almost impossible for the Department to develop Cook and other state forest parks to the extent desired and really necessary so that they may be properly preserved and opened up for the greatest enjoyment of the hundreds thousands of seasonal visitors who frequent this largest remaining virgin area of hemlocks and white pines.

A C. C. C. camp has been maintained in this park from the very first, and the results of their work have been justified in every way. Mr. Liggett feels that the President has done nothing which is producing better results than this C. C. C. proposition. He feels that it is teaching the young men many things which they would not learn otherwise. In addition the outdoor exercise is improving their health at a wonderful rate. They are being taught the value of money and how to save

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it, and they are becoming better and more substantial citizens.

For years Mr. Liggett has longed to see a highway on the bank of the Clarion from Cooksburg to Ridgway. This highway with a 16-foot wide driveway is now almost finished, and probably in the near future this will afford a connecting link between the Cook State Forest Park and the Allegheny National Park in which latter is located the largest acreage of centuries-old hemlocks and hardwoods.

Great credit is due to our veteran member and campaigner for his untiring efforts on behalf of the citizens of the state in bringing about the acquisition of the 6,000 acre tract of which Cook park forms a delightful portion.



Courtesy Penna. Dept. Forests and Waters
A TRAIL IN COOK STATE FOREST PARK

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A TRAIL IN COOK STATE FOREST PARK

RECENT PROGRESS IN PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS

By W. E. Montgomery

Chief, Division of Forest Management

Through the use of Federal funds, both ECW and LWD, combined with the usual although somewhat reduced State appropriations, many improvements have been made in the recreational facilities available in the State Parks and State Forests of Pennsylvania during the past year. It is somewhat difficult, however, to enumerate all of these in detail, due to the fact that so much of the work is still incomplete.

At Valley Forge, the principal accomplishments were (a) the restoration of the kitchen-wing of Washington's Headquarters to the condition that doubtlessly existed in Colonial times (b) the remodeling of the exterior of Varnum's Headquarters to its original state (c) the successful efforts of the Commission to secure the proper type of bridge across Valley Creek (d) the remodeling of the unsightly Patterson and Stephens houses (e) the landscaping of several rather conspicuous areas that were much in need of improvement (f) additional tree work in trimming, bracing, cabling, and filling cavities, together with some general thinnings and improvement cuttings.

A new development of outstanding importance and rather widespread interest was the establishment of the Bowmans Hill State Wild Flower Preserve on the northern section of Washington Crossing Park. This was sponsored by the Council for the Preservation of Natural Beauty in Pennsylvania. Considerable much-needed tree improvement was also accomplished at Washington Crossing together with the construction of a large parking area, the clearing of 75 acres for recreational use, and the partial grading of a new road to the Continental soldiers' graves. The old historic covered bridge over Pidcocks Creek was removed and will be preserved.

The renovation of the old miller's house at the Ralph Stover Tract has been completed, the barn repaired, springs cleaned, drains installed and work on erosion control started. It is expected that the Ralph Stover Tract will prove quite popular and to meet the demand, picnic tables, comfort facilities, tourist cabins, fireplaces, and playgrounds are being provided. Work was also started on the dam.

At Presque Isle, the woodland was cleaned and improved, one new pier constructed and an old one

rebuilt, shallow portions of Horseshoe Pond Channel were dredged, and the Yacht Club Basin was deepened for the use of the general public.

Work on a large scale was started at Fort Necessity several times, but unfortunately had to be stopped before many projects could be completed. Considerable planting and landscaping was accomplished, however, and a great deal of preliminary work was done which will not be lost, since it can be continued by the C. C. C. Camp which in a few weeks will be established at this Park.

A splendid "Lodge House" (a replica of the kind built by the Indians—as far as practicable) was constructed at Bushy Run Battlefield. It is now being furnished with reproductions of the various implements and equipment used by the Indians in their interesting and intricate ceremonials. Other improvements have also been secured in an increased number of tables, benches, fireplaces, shelters, playground equipment.

At Cook Forest, work is progressing on a cabin colony located along the River Road; comfort stations and water systems have been installed at the principal camping grounds and picnic areas; a road is being constructed into the heart of the tract which heretofore has been nearly inaccessible, thus making available a number of sites well adapted for recreational use.

In the State Forests, additional areas have been cleared, aggregating 540 acres; 147 new buildings have been constructed at State Forest Parks and Public Camps; streams have been improved; 23 dams of considerable size have been erected, in addition to more than 1400 small fish dams. Additional facilities of various kinds have been built, as follows: 91 tables, 356 benches, 30 pavilions, 69 fireplaces, 14 latrines, 40 table shelters, 3 administration buildings, 12 overnight cabins, 28 shelters. Among other activities were (a) raising the Black Moshannon dam four feet, increasing the size of the lake to 260 acres (b) starting the Owaga Public Camp along the Roosevelt State Highway (c) commencing a large swimming pool at Caledonia (d) constructing a bathing pier and satisfactory beach at Halfway Dam.

Department to Get New Parks

The Conrad Weiser Memorial Park in Berks County and the Drake Well Memorial Park in Venango County, are transferred from the Pennsylvania Historical Commission to the administration of the Department of Forests and Waters.

The bills providing for these transfers were approved by Governor Earle on April 24, 1935.

RALPH STOVER PARK

By E. F. Brouse

The Ralph Stover Tract, familiarly known as "Burnt Mill Park" is fast becoming a popular recreational area. While it does not have the thousands of visitors that flock to many of the parks in southeastern Pennsylvania the unimproved auto trails leading to it are becoming well beaten. There is apprehension on the part of those close to this park that it will become too popular for Sundays and holidays find 50 to 100 cars filled with people trekking to it in spite of its unfinished condition.

The tract consists of 37 acres of land situated in the Tohickon Valley about 2½ miles northwest of Point Pleasant, Bucks County. More than one-third of it is well covered with a thrifty growth of hardwoods, about 5 acres of sparse tree growth and roughly 15 acres of old fields. Two fields carry a spotted growth of red cedar and dogwood trees. These present a picture typical of upper Bucks County.

The Park is approached over a winding dirt road first lined with stone fences and cedar trees leading into second growth hardwoods. Farther on the road lays against the north slope of the valley and as the park is neared the by-way passes through an excellent stand of dense hemlock rather uncommon for that section of the State. The park, "over the hill" from the outside world, is very much secluded, a most inviting feature to true out-of-door folk. The Tohickon Creek flows through a corner of the tract and borders it on the entire north side. Fortunately, the beautiful Valley is at its best in the immediate vicinity of the park with the dense and undeveloped stretch of forest land above and the Palisades, a sheer wall of red shale 150 to 200 feet in height only a short distance below. The cave used many years ago as a hide-out by the notorious Doan brothers, terrorists of Bucks County, is only a short distance from the park.

The Department of Forests and Waters was fortunate in coming into possession of the tract by gift early in 1934, through the generosity of the Misses Troemner, of Point Pleasant, granddaughters of Ralph Stover, for whom the park is named. Consideration immediately was given to the development of it for park purposes, plans were formulated and work started in mid-March of last year. The first work undertaken was the restoration of the miller's residence about 125 years old. Little remained standing except the walls which were

in surprisingly good condition. It was a large stone house with fine old fireplaces in all of the rooms and there was evidence that it had been equipped at one time with a bake oven. Fortunately, vandals who seriously damaged it from top to bottom left some of the remains which were used as patterns in the reconstruction work. One door was located in a nearby farm house serving as a floor in a potato bin; the only shutter found was built into a bench; some of the trim in each of the rooms was located in various places; etc. so that fortunately the restoration is absolutely accurate in most of the details. The original wood work was of an exceptionally fine nature. The work has been practically completed and in addition the house is now equipped with heat, light and water. The grounds have been carefully graded and a simple planting of a few flowers and trees will be made on the large lawn in keeping with the landscaping of a century ago. It is expected that the first floor of the house will be devoted to restaurant use and the second will furnish living quarters for the Park caretaker.

The Woodland throughout the tract has been cleaned of dead and down material and ranked for the use of picnickers. The brush was burned and much other debris deposited in years past was disposed of. Four thousand white pine and hemlock transplants 8-12 inches in height were set out on areas where the tree growth was sparse and 200 white pine trees 3-4 feet in height were planted in the old field where the over-night cabins are located.

Five cabins have been built. They are part stone and part frame with inside dimensions of 10 x 14 feet and contain a fireplace. Two park shelters 18 x 18 feet are practically completed as is the public comfort station. Some improvements have been made to the roads within the tract and an old type of stone arch bridge is now under construction. It spans a large ditch and will carry the new road by the barn to the parking area to be developed later on. This area will accommodate 75 cars.

A part of the old barn destroyed by fire near the same time that the mill burned was rebuilt and is in reasonably good condition. It will be painted and new floors laid throughout. This structure will be available for use as a sort of community center. The walls of the old mill are still standing and every means will be taken to preserve them.

The old mill is historically more significant than anything else on the property. It is a land-mark in the locality.

Perhaps the largest single project undertaken is the construction of a dam across the Tohickon Creek. It will be made of stone masonry and 210 feet in length when completed. This will provide excellent bathing and to an extent boating. The work has been started but no doubt several months will elapse before it is finished.

There are other improvements in the process of completion such as erosion control dams, repair of stone fences, extending the water and light systems, the construction of fireplaces, tables and benches, paths, repair of the old mill race, etc., etc.

Much work has been done to improve the tract and a great deal remains to be done. Plans for the complete development of the park are awaiting approval of Works Division authorities through whom most of the improvements were accomplished. It is expected that by the time the present projects are finished the new will be approved and work will go forward uninterrupted. It is the opinion of many that when completed the Stover Tract, perhaps, will be the finest small park in Pennsylvania.

THE BUCKTAIL STATE PARK

Joseph R. Kendig

The establishing of the Bucktail State Park, located in Clinton and Cameron Counties and its surrounding Pleasure Lands, goes on apace. With the promise of continuing such work projects as have been performed by the C. C. C. boys in their reforestation and relief work in closing abandoned and worked out bituminous coal mines, from whence comes a large source of river pollution, we will some day see the waters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries made so potable as to support fish life and luringly attractive for boating and swimming by persons recreation bent. The progressive building of forest roads, and stream improvement will open up many additional camping sites and many additional miles of good fishing streams for both bass and trout.

Last June when the Pennsylvania Parks Association held its annual convention in the Bucktail State Park Area, its members, while on sight-seeing trips motored over many miles of dirt forest roads, which are now charted to be hard surfaced and will give the Recreation Lands a system of well-spaced roads, throughout, leading into and from the Commonwealth's most scenic park.

It is further planned with successful Legislation pending to meet all the requirements of the Commonwealth to formally take over the park and begin the work of landscaping and developing many of its promising details.

DELAWARE COUNTY PARK PROGRESS

By Samuel L. Smedley,

President, Delaware County Park Board

We have been greatly assisted the past year through Federal funds in making topographical surveys including property lines of areas which are particularly adapted for park and recreational purposes.

The thought is quite prevalent among owners of property in and near our creek valleys: Why pay taxes on steep and lower portions of their land for generations when, if they can be used for park purposes, they will immediately become an asset rather than a liability to the balance of their property and the neighborhood.

We have received some very attractive offers actuated by this thought. In a small way this is quite evident adjoining Naylor's Run Park, Upper Darby, Delaware County, where ten handsome residences have been erected and occupied within the past two years. Our greatest example is in Westchester County, New York, where they can show an increased valuation of \$12.00 for every dollar spent in improvement.

We were greatly heartened by an address given recently at Media, Pa., by Libert H. Weir, of the National Recreational Association, after spending a greater part of the previous day inspecting our county. Mr. Weir told the audience: "There is no question but that Delaware County affords magnificent opportunities in the way of natural park lands which are threatened with destruction if the citizens of this County do not take prompt steps for their preservation." Following Mr. Weir's address steps were taken to form a Citizens' Park Association of Delaware County with the view of arousing public interest in the preservation of our natural beauty for future generations.

BLUE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

This park was dedicated on Sunday, October 14, 1934. It is located in Schubert's Gap near Bethel, Pa. It consists of 63 acres purchased for the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club by Mrs. A. Kathryn Hertlein. The above organization in June of

1934 turned the tract over to the Department of Forests and Waters.

It is the hope of the club that this shall be the nucleus from which will grow an immense park area taking in all of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Commonwealth. This would mean a park about 108 miles long from Lehigh Gap to the Susquehanna just above Harrisburg. Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker in the Altoona Tribune of October, 1934, refers to this as a project of the late Oliver D. Schock, of Hamburg, Berks County, who placed it before every forestry commission from Gifford Pinchot's time. All were enthused but the necessary funds were lacking.

The Blue Mountains or "Blauen Barrichen," the later being the Pennsylvania Dutch name, are of great economic value as a state reserve. According to the late Dr. J. T. Rothrock there are 200 streams rising in these mountains from some 2,000 springs. The amount of timber that can be grown in such a park will do much to stabilize climate and preserve the flow of pure water for the use of the many towns and cities nearby.

As a recreational center for Harrisburg, Lebanon, Reading, Allentown, Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven and Tamaqua, the Blue Mountains are a wonderland of Pennsylvania history, scenery, flora and fauna. Colonel Shoemaker says there is no greater natural wonder in this state of natural wonders than the famed Blue Rocks near Hamburg. This formation covers hundreds of acres of huge lichen-covered boulders of a bluish tint beneath which one can hear the roll of subterranean streams. Nearby is the largest Indian graveyard in Pennsylvania. Caves also abound in this region.

Over the Blue Ridge Mountains has been laid a good portion of the Appalachian Trail which runs through Pennsylvania. There is also a shorter trail known as the Valley Rim. This is 2.2 miles long connecting the rocky headlands in northern Berks County known as "The Pinnacle," and "Pulpit Rock," whose altitudes above mean sea level are 1605 feet and 1540 feet, respectively. This trail is well defined by over 200 metal bands painted yellow and signs call attention to the following points of interest: Rocky Zig-Zag, the Turret, Summit of Ridge, Great Bend, Boulder Ridge, the Corridor, Maidencreek Valley View, Grand Panorama, Inspiration Point, Sentinel Rock, Rocky Glen, and numerous vistas.

Hawk Mountain, if included in this park area, would provide a haven for the hawks, falcon and eagles until recently slaughtered in great numbers,

but which in the future will be able to cross the mountain in peace.

The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club is the organization which is perhaps more strongly behind this project than any other, and Mr. Daniel K. Hoch, of Reading, Pa., has 58 slides and a reel of moving pictures. He has shown these and given 62 talks before church organizations, civic groups, etc. Although his pictures and talks are concerned principally with the Appalachian Trail movement, he stresses especially their success in securing the nucleus for the extensive park.

A few of the others who have been strongly behind this movement are the former Mayor, William F. Shanaman, of Reading, who is president of the club, and also Dr. H. F. Rentschler, secretary.

A SOUND STATE PARK PROGRAM NEEDED

By Jacob M. Hoffman

When Hon. Harold L. Ickes, United States Secretary of Interior, decided that America should have C. C. camps throughout the country operating under the National Park Service and distinct from those camps that were directed by the United States Forest Service, the most outstanding step in the conservation program of our nation was set in motion. We were threatened with the danger of placing in our shrines C. C. camps, directed by a personnel whose conception of conservation consisted of the growing of trees for future timber production, the protection of soils from erosion and other strictly utilitarian and commercial aspects. The value of State, City and County forests and public lands, as well as national forests, were considered almost completely from the standpoint of scientific management, largely in accordance with the program of the French and German foresters, who aimed at developing a forest stand in a manner similar to that of a good farmer developing his crop of wheat and rye.

Vast wilderness areas, remaining in their natural state, is the American conception and to a very large extent unique to American social requirements. In Pennsylvania it is necessary that a survey of mountains, forests and streams be made in order to determine which areas should be preserved for parks and which areas should be set aside for future timber production, and after this decision is made plans and programs for the respective development of such areas should be made. A very sharp line of distinction exists between the type of program required in the proper development of

a State, City or County park on the one hand and a State forest on the other. Experience has proven that the viewpoint is entirely divergent between those who are interested in conservation from the point of view of forest culture and those who are interested in conservation from the point of human development. The blurred confusion existing in the minds of conservationists who are not able to discern the need for such decisive action is very unfortunate. It is urgently hoped that a park program may be developed which is entirely independent of the forestry program which forestry program is primarily interested in the commercial side of the problem.

Foresters who consider the aesthetic side of conservation, recreation and in general human use of secondary importance cannot be entrusted with the responsibility of park development which carries with it such a great social and educational responsibility. It is of tremendous importance that sound foundations of policies and programs may now be established while much of the development of important areas is in its infancy and while liberal sums of Federal money are available with which to do the State work.

Already in several cases areas that possess great potential value for parks have been ruined through forest development that did not recognize the park angle of this question. Whatever damage has been done to glens, waterfalls and ancient trees, in areas that should be preserved for the recreation, inspiration and enjoyment of our people for all time, can be forgiven if we now awaken to the opportunities that have been made available through the vision and courage of the United States Secretary of Interior.

THERE SHOULD BE A PRIMITIVE AREA PRESERVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

By Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, member Board of Directors Pennsylvania Parks Association; member Pennsylvania State Forest Commission, 1918-1930.

To carry out the idea of forest parks in Pennsylvania to its fullest extent, there should be a primitive area set aside where all nature is left undisturbed, and future generations can see the forest primeval as the first settlers found it. The building of roads and trails, brush cutting, the opening of so-called scenic vistas, removal of alleged undesirable trees, hunting, fishing, and trapping

have rendered most of the State Forest monuments into a condition far unlike their original state.

The Cook Forest has been exploited in a hundred ways, and the remnant of the giant pines look sadly down on tourists cabins, boat houses, dog kennels, and filling stations. The contrast there is too great between the glaringly modern, and the forest primeval to stand for any principle in particular.

The Snyder-Middleswarth Park, in Snyder County, a really finer body of timber than the Cook Forest, was separately administered for several years as a result of a special act of the legislature. During those years it preserved its pristine grandeur. After passing under the control of the Forestry Department, many roads and trails were cut, resulting in the death of some of the largest hemlocks. Parking spaces, cook stoves, and benches, further destroyed the primitive picture.

The idea of primitive areas is not a new one. The Swiss Government established such an area in 1915 where all forms of wild life, including the almost extinct Alpine ibex, trees, and wild flowers are protected, even the wolf, bear, and eagle persecuted elsewhere in the Confederation are allowed perfect freedom there.

In 1922 the great Mussolini established a similar "primitive area" in the Abruzzi Mountains of Central Italy, primarily to save the bears and wolves, and some of the scarcer birds. There will be found some of the rarer pines of Italy, and wild flowers rapidly approaching extinction.

Without spending any money, such primitive areas are to be found in the vast acreage now controlled by the Department of Forests and Waters in Pennsylvania. This writer found a score of such when asked by Gifford Pinchot to designate State Forest Monuments and State Parks in 1920. While those have been treated too much as "State Forests" to be suitable as primitive areas, others can be located, if an effort is made soon.

NOTE—The editor believes that Colonel Shoemaker and other lovers of wilderness areas will be greatly gratified to learn that a large part of the 4,300 acres of the Tionesta virgin hemlock and hardwood forest, located in southeastern Warren and southwestern McKean Counties, purchased by the Federal Government last November, will be preserved as a virgin forest area; a laboratory in which foresters will be able to learn from nature her ways of perpetuating areas of this now unique type.

The Allegheny Forest Experiment Station is now busily engaged in outlining the areas from which the public will be excluded, and those in which they may enjoy the forest primeval. It is hoped

that plans may be prepared and carried out in time for the public to have access to the border of this museum piece during the summer or early fall.

Mid-October is a most ideal time in which to visit this section for it is then that the autumnal colors are usually at their best, and when they are set off to the greatest advantage by the dark green of the hemlocks and occasional pines. It is doubtful whether in any other part of the state such beauty of foliage can be seen. The Pennsylvania Forestry Association was largely instrumental in saving this wonderful area, the like of which does not exist between the Adirondacks and the great Smokies.

MORE MEMBERS, PLEASE

The Pennsylvania Parks Association was organized in one of the worst of the depression years, and although composed of many most enthusiastic state forest park advocates, a much larger membership is necessary if we are to accomplish the many objectives of our Association.

If you are not already a member, won't you seriously and favorably consider joining and send to our secretary your application with \$3 for 1935? And whether or not a member or an applicant, won't you try to get others interested in our activities, and get as many as possible to give us their financial as well as their moral support?

HITHER AND YON

Among the accomplishments of the C. C. C. army we note the construction of 28 recreational dams. Plans have been completed for four and sites have been approved for six additional dams.

On May 1, 1935, a wild life sanctum comprising an area of 4,000 acres was announced. This is located in the Pymatuning reservoir area in Crawford County, and is considered one of the outstanding game refuges in Eastern United States. The lake itself has a shore line of about 70 miles. It is the largest lake in the state, and will form an important link in the park system of Pennsylvania.

At the state park in Erie an automobile vehicle counter has been installed, and will record the passing of every car.

Clean up of the bay shore resulted in a salvage of 1,500 cords of firewood which has been delivered to the Poor Board for distribution.

Mr. Thomas W. Lantz, of Reading, Pa., one of our park enthusiasts, is at present on a three months'

study tour of Germany and Austria. Mr. Lantz has been the recipient of an Oberlaender grant from the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation to make a study of the "Recreational and Cultural Opportunities for Young People Between the Ages of 16 and 24 Years."

"Recreation in the State Forests and Parks of Pennsylvania," a profusely illustrated publication, describes and locates the state recreational areas. It was written by W. E. Montgomery of the Department of Forests and Waters, from which department copies of this can be obtained.

Ralph M. Bashore is now secretary and Dr. J. F. Bogardus is deputy-secretary of the Department, both by appointment of the Governor, George H. Earle.

The Delaware Valley Protective Association has been very much concerned lest the break in the Delaware Canal at New Hope would not be repaired in time for filling with water for summer canal boating parties, and for the beautifying of the park in the vicinity of Point Pleasant. Unfortunately, the Department of Forests and Waters is without sufficient funds with which to make the necessary repairs, and furthermore there is some question as to whether the canal should be maintained by the state authorities or by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.

Mr. Jerome J. Sheas, Superintendent of Valley Forge Park, informs that for some months the LWD executed a forestry project treating and preserving older trees, but unfortunately this was discontinued in February.

Under a special ruling the house formerly owned by the Stephens family and occupied by Brigadier General Varnum through the Winter of 1777-1778 is being restored to original type. The work of making alterations has been most interesting, but progress was slow since every change had to be verified by facts and approved by the American Institute of Architects on Preservation of Historical Buildings.

Mr. Sheas has recently been extremely busy, his time being taken up with the enormous crowds visiting the Park to enjoy the dogwood display. 54,374 cars were counted, and it is estimated that upwards of 250,000 persons enjoyed the bloom.

The French Creek park is referred to elsewhere and is located in northwestern Chester County and in the southeastern part of Berks County. At present it includes about 4,800 acres of beautiful rolling country much of which can be viewed from an 80-foot fire tower.

It is expected that during the summer there will be limited accommodations for visitors.

The old Hopewell furnace will in all probability be restored to its original condition. One cannon ball has already been unearthed, and is a reminder of one of the products of this furnace in Revolutionary days.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION STATE PARKS' OUTING MEETINGS

- 1931 June 22 to 23, inclusive, headquarters Valley Forge with trip to French Creek Park area.
- 1931 October 17, Thompson Neely Mill, dedication of Roosevelt State Park.
- 1933 June 8, 9, 10, Wilkes-Barre.
- 1934 June 9, dedication of Ralph Stover State Park.
- 1934 June 14, 15, 16, Bucktail State Park meetings at Renovo, Emporium, Bellefonte and Lock Haven.

STATE PARKS GROWING UP

"State parks throughout the nation have increased by approximately 500,000 acres since 1913. Use of existing state parks and the need of additional areas by the C. C. C. have been large factors in this remarkable increase. Some thirty-two states have added to their park systems areas ranging from a few acres to several thousand. Texas stands far in advance of any other state in point of expansion of its park system, eighteen new state parks, total-

ing 248,474 acres, having been acquired within recent years. Other states which lead in the expansion of state park areas are California with 28,673 acres; Virginia, with 16,347 acres; Oklahoma, with 13,336 acres; Alabama, with 8,200 acres; West Virginia, with 7,800 acres; Mississippi, with 4,380 acres; New Mexico with 3,576 acres; South Carolina, with 3,525 acres; Georgia, with 3,520 acres; Washington, with 2,610 acres; New York, with 2,321 acres; Vermont, with 2,240 acres; Arkansas, with 1,952 acres; New Hampshire, with 1,571 acres, and Iowa, with 1,533 acres. All acquisitions have been through gifts to or purchases by the states." American Forests.

THOMAS LIGGETT, JR.

On April 9, 1935, Thomas Liggett, Jr., son of Thomas Liggett, of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, one of our Vice-Presidents, passed away very quickly and very suddenly at his home in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.

For some time he had been troubled to a greater or less extent with angina pectoris and during Tuesday, the ninth of April, the doctor had been with him a great part of the day. In the evening, about 5.30, although feeling somewhat better, he fell forward and was gone when they reached him.

He was a graduate of Princeton College, having taken a Civil Engineer's course. He leaves behind him his wife, Margaret Kirk Liggett and two sons, Thomas, 3rd, a graduate of Lehigh University, now with the Lindy Air Conditioning Corporation, and Kirk, in his Junior year at Dartmouth College.

His age at the time of his death was fifty-two. The interment took place at Sewickley, Pennsylvania, where his father lives.

The Association extends its sympathy to the members of the Liggett family.



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